



LPO

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

11 February 1986

CRIME PREVENTION

The Prime Minister has seen the Home Secretary's minute of 6 February. She has noted the follow-up to the Crime Prevention Seminar now under way, and has agreed the Home Secretary's proposal that he should set up a co-ordinating Ministerial Working Group, chaired by Giles Shaw.

The Prime Minister has also noted the importance of ensuring that this follow-up work is accompanied by appropriate publicity, and she has suggested that public service films on television could be a useful avenue to explore.

MARK ADDISON

Stephen Boys Smith, Esq.,  
Home Office.

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cc/BG



Prime Minister. ①

*Publicity? - we must follow up with T.V. Public Home films and other*

*To take the comprehensive follow-up to the Crime Prevention meeting, and to agree that the Home Sec should set up a co-ordinating Ministerial Working Group, chaired by Giles Shaw. Contact? NEA 10/2*

PRIME MINISTER

CRIME PREVENTION

Your successful seminar on crime prevention on 8 January resulted in a wide range of initiatives. Most of these will be carried forward through working groups, chaired by people from outside government under the aegis of the Home Office Standing Conference on Crime Prevention. We have in mind a number of fairly small groups, each tackling a distinct area of work and reporting to the follow-up seminar which you have asked me to chair in the summer, and at the open meeting of the Standing Conference in November of this year. The working group on shop theft will, for example, be charged with designing measures to protect retailers from theft, while the group on commercial robbery will be asked to draw up an advisory package of preventive techniques to protect commercial premises such as banks, building societies and sub-post offices from attack. We also have arrangements in hand for working groups on car security and the prevention of violence associated with licensed premises. In addition, BSI are developing a new standard for vehicle design which will take account of the need for security; the Department of Transport have working groups in place on violence on the Underground and the prevention of violence to bus crews; and the HSE's committee on violence to staff is scheduled to report during the middle of the year.

2. The working groups will concentrate on key issues and aim to produce results fairly quickly. But I see a need to address crime prevention in a more general way, and to ensure that key people at both national and local level recognise the contribution they can make to this and then act on it in practical ways. Our aim will be to raise the public profile of crime prevention and as a preparatory step I propose to chair a private meeting of some eight to ten people, principally from commerce and industry. The main purpose of the meeting will be to encourage those present to offer sponsorship for crime prevention projects, in the forms of both money and seconded personnel. We are particularly keen to strengthen our own crime prevention team through secondments from the private sector. In due course the group, which will need to meet on a number of occasions, might become the nucleus of a small pressure group or perhaps a National Society for Crime Prevention outside government which might identify and publicise activity aimed at the prevention of crime and so keep the need to prevent crime in the public eye.

*T.V. Public Home films? Publicity?*



3. At local level the time is right for a sustained and well publicised programme of Ministerial visits to local projects, and meetings to underline the Government's commitment to, and encouragement of, local preventive effort. The programme of Ministerial visits would have particular regard to the five local projects which the Home Office has initiated and the crime prevention initiative under the expanded Community Programme. Well orchestrated visits might well serve as a catalyst for new projects, possibly based on an effective Chamber of Commerce, or a particularly good Trades Council or Crime Prevention Panel. I also propose to write to all MPs in England and Wales telling them about recent crime prevention initiatives, particularly Neighbourhood Watch, and calling for their support in developing preventive activity in their constituencies.

4. In parallel with encouraging representatives of industry and commerce and the local community to promote crime prevention, we need to sustain momentum in general government and I therefore propose setting up a Ministerial group, but which would also include officials, similar to the Ministerial Group on the Misuse of Drugs, with which you will be familiar. If you agree, I suggest that Giles Shaw should chair the new group, which might include representatives of the Departments of Education & Science, Health & Social Security, Environment, Transport, Trade & Industry, Energy, Employment, the Treasury and Manpower Services Commission, and the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland Offices. The first task of the group would be to devise and carry forward a series of action plans, each containing priorities and Departmental objectives. The terms of reference might be on the following lines:-

"To carry forward the Government's strategy for preventing crime and the fear of crime by reducing opportunities that exist for crime to occur, and to create confidence within the community that crime can be reduced, having particular regard to:

- (i) developing the proposals for the more effective implementation of that strategy; and
- (ii) the arrangements within and outside of government for the co-ordination, development and implementation of initiatives.

The Group should take such action as it considers necessary and report on its work."

The group might meet first early in March and thereafter once a month, at least initially.

5. We now have a programme of work consisting of activity on a broad front and which takes account of the need to raise the public profile of crime prevention, sustain momentum and carry forward, with confidence, the messages of the seminar.



6. I am copying this minute to Nigel Lawson, Keith Joseph, Peter Walker, Nicholas Edwards, Norman Fowler, Nicholas Ridley, Kenneth Baker, Tom King, David Young, Paul Channon and Malcolm Rifkind.

*Douglas Hurd.*

6 February 1986





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